

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.     A method of controlling the environment of a field of plants, the  
2 method comprising:  
3                   providing a movable cover;  
4                   moving the cover over the field of plants;  
5                   leaving the cover over the field of plants for an amount of time to control at  
6 least one parameter of the environment of the field of plants;  
7                   removing the cover from at least a portion of the field of plants; and  
8                   harvesting from at least some of the plants from the field of plants.
- 1                   2.     A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the at least one  
2 parameter is from a group comprising temperature, atmosphere and light.
- 1                   3.     A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising supplying air  
2 under the cover.
- 1                   4.     A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein the air is heated.
- 1                   5.     A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein two covers are provided,  
2 moved over the field of plants, left over the field of plants for the amount of time, and  
3 removed from the field of plants.
- 1                   6.     A method in accordance with claim 4 further comprising supplying air  
2 under the covers.
- 1                   7.     A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the air is heated.
- 1                   8.     A method in accordance with claim 4 further comprising supplying air  
2 between the covers.
- 1                   9.     A method in accordance with claim 8 wherein the air is heated.
- 1                   10.    A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein pesticide is provided  
2 under the cover.
- 1                   11.    A method of facilitating harvesting of leafy plants, the method  
2 comprising:

3                   providing a movable cover;  
4                   moving the cover over a field of leafy plants prior to dawn of a day that  
5 harvesting is desired;  
6                   leaving the cover over the field of leafy plants for an amount of time to control  
7 at least one parameter of the environment of the field of leafy plants;  
8                   removing the cover from at least a portion of the field of leafy plants after  
9 dawn of the day harvesting is desired; and  
10                  harvesting from at least some of the leafy plants from the field of leafy plants.

1                   12.     A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the leafy plants are at  
2 least one of a group comprising lettuce, spinach, cabbage, baby leaves, baby lettuce and baby  
3 spinach.

1                   13.     A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the at least one  
2 parameter is from a group comprising temperature, atmosphere and light.

1                   14.     A method in accordance with claim 11 further comprising supplying  
2 air under the cover.

1                   15.     A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein the air is heated.

1                   16.     A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein two covers are  
2 provided, moved over the field of plants, left over the field of plants for the amount of time,  
3 and removed from the field of plants.

1                   17.     A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein the covers comprise  
2 plastic substantially 4 mils thick.

1                   18.     A method in accordance with claim 16 further comprising supplying  
2 air under the covers.

1                   19.     A method in accordance with claim 18 wherein the air is heated.

1                   20.     A method in accordance with claim 16 further comprising supplying  
2 air between the covers.

1                   21.     A method in accordance with claim 20 wherein the air is heated.

1                   22.     A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein pesticide is provided  
2 under the cover.

1                   23.     A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the cover comprises  
2 plastic substantially 4 mils thick.

1                   24.     A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the cover is removed in  
2 twenty feet increments.

1                   25.     A method in accordance with claim 11 further comprising covering the  
2 field of leafy plants with a shade cloth before harvesting.

1                   26.     A method of slowing growth of a field of plants, the method  
2 comprising placing at least one cover over the plants to limit the amount light reaching the  
3 plants.

1                   27.     A method in accordance with claim 26 wherein the cover comprises  
2 shade cloth approximately 4 mils thick.

1                   28.     A method in accordance with claim 27 wherein the cover comprises  
2 one of plastic or woven plastic.

1                   29.     A method of preventing ice formation in leaves in plants in a field, the  
2 method comprising placing at least one cover over the plants prior to dawn of a day the plants  
3 are desired to be harvested.

1                   30.     A method in accordance with claim 29 wherein the cover comprises  
2 plastic.

1                   31.     A method in accordance with claim 30 wherein the cover is  
2 approximately 8 mils thick.